State of Meghalaya during the last three years and till date, District-wise is given below:—

Waiting list during the last three years and As on 30-4-2000

Sl. No.	Name of District	Waiting list as on 31.3.98	Waiting list as on 31.3.99	Waiting list as on 31.3.2000	Waiting list as on 30.4.2000
1.	Ri-Bhoi	57	263	193	237
2.	East Khasi Hills	537	311	3142	2499
3.	West Khasi Hills	24	38	229	237
4.	West Garo Hills	148	508	356	442
5.	East Garo Hills	2	6	117	118
6.	South Garo Hills	18	3	20	25
7.	Jaintia Hills	22	—	191	249
	TOTAL :	808	1175	4248	3807

(b) The above waiting list of 30.4.2000 of the State is likely to be cleared by the end of 2000 progressively.

(c) The telephone connections in the State are likely to be provided on demand by March, 2001.

Violation of rules for setting up a telephone exchange

†4598. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain minimum number of telephone consumers has been fixed for setting up of a telephone exchange;

(b) if so, what is this number and whether this rule with regard to number is still being violated at a number of places in the country; and

† Orginal notic of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the names of places alongwith States where such violation takes place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The minimum registered demand required for opening of a telephone Exchage is 10 provided the demand of the telephones at the place cannot be met from an existing exchange within the SDCA (Short Distance Charging Area). This condition is not being violated anywhere in the country.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to para (b) above.

Amount spent on MARR

†4599. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a telephone system was set up in the rural areas of the country under Multi Access Radio Reception System;

(b) if so, when this system was set up and the number of villages where this system was set up;

(c) the total amount spent on the same;

(d) whether information regarding the results of this system was gathered prior to its setting up; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The system was inducted in the rural network during year 1991. Village Public Telephones have been provided in 211,313 villages in the country on this system. Total amount incurred in setting up these systems in Rs. 1390.87 crores.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The decision to set up this system was taken after fields trials. The first field trial was conducted at Ballabhgarh,

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.